

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 02625 111548Z

46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 PRS-01 DPW-01 PA-02 SS-15 AID-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 /060 W

----- 109370

O R 111053Z FEB 75 ZFF RUEHFO

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9298

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF WASHDC/OASD/PA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 2625

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM, IOP/FW AND IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK, HONG KONG AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE FOR S/PRS AND EA/P

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: KHMER SITUATIONER - FEBRUARY 11, 1975

1. COMMUNIST FORCES HAVE MOUNTED HEAVY ATTACKS AGAINST A BRIDGE ON ROUTE 7 NEAR MUK KHAMPOUL TEN KILOMETERS NORTH OF PHNOM PENH. FANK SUSTAINED LIGHT TO MODERATE CASUALTIES IN FIGHTING THERE DURING THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. COMMUNIST LOSSES ARE NOT YET KNOWN. THE FANK SEVENTH DIVISION NORTH OF PHNOM PENH REPORTED A SERIES OF COMMUNIST ATTACKS ALL ALONG ITS NORTHERN FRONT YESTERDAY. KHMER AIR FORCE T-28 PROVIDED CLOSE-IN SUPPORT AND ALL GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE HELD. YESTERDAY'S FIGHTING WAS A CONTINUATION OF HEAVY COMMUNIST PRESSURE AGAINST PHNOM PENH'S NORTHERN DEFENSES DURING THE PAST FIVE WEEKS.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 02625 111548Z

WM FANK ELEMENTS AT THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KOMPONG THOM REPORT KILLING SIXTEEN COMMUNIST SOLDIERS AND CAPTURING THIRTEEN WEAPONS IN CONTINUED FIGHTING ON THE CITY'S EASTERN DEFENSE PERIMETER. TWO FANK

SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND EIGHT OTHERS WERE WOUNDED. INCREASED COMMUNIST PRESSURE WAS REPORTED YESTERDAY AGAINST GOVERNMENT DEFENSE POSITIONS AT OUDONG NORTH OF PHNOM PENH ON ROUTE 5. FANK UNITS KILLED THIRTY COMMUNIST SOLDIERS IN AN ENGAGEMENT NEAR MAUNG RUSSEI FORTY KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF BATTAMBANG CITY ON ROUTE 5. THREE FANK MEN WERE KILLED IN THE FIGHTING.

3. CONTINUED LIGHT TO MODERATE CONTACT WAS REPORTED YESTERDAY AT KAMPOT. SIX FANK MEN WERE WOUNDED DURING COMMUNIST MORTAR ATTACKS ON THE CITY'S WESTERN DEFENSE PERIMETER. GOVERNMENT FORCES KILLED THREE COMMUNIST SOLDIERS IN AN ENGAGEMENT NORTHEAST OF THE CITY. THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN COMMUNIST PRESSURE AGAINST THREE FANK POSITIONS ALONG THE MEKONG BETWEEN BANAM AND THE BORDER WITH SOUTH VIETNAM.

4. AN ECUMENICAL SERVICE WAS HELD TODAY IN PHNOM PENH CATHEDRAL IN MEMORY OF THOMAS FRANKLIN OLMSTED, DIRECTOR OF UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC. THE KHMER TRIBUTE WAS GIVEN BY H.E. KHY TAING LIM, MINISTER OF PLANNING FINANCE AND ECONOMY. UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR JOHN GUNTHER DEAN DELIVERED THE EULOGY. MR. OLMSTED DIED IN BANGKOK ON FEBRUARY 8 FOLLOWING A BRIEF ILLNESS. BORN IN NEW YORK CITY IN 1929, MR. OLMSTED WAS EDUCATED AT SYRACUSE AND HARVARD UNIVERSITIES. HE SERVED EXTENSIVELY IN EAST ASIA DURING A CAREER OF DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MR. OLMSTED WAS ATTENDED BY HIS WIDOW MARTHA, AND HIS BROTHER ROBERT.

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